THIN SANDS RANGE SITE

1. TOPOGRAPHY

a. This site occurs on undulating to rolling uplands and nearly level to gently sloping terraces. Slopes are commonly from 2 to 15 percent.

2. SOILS

a. These are coarse textured soils with a thin surface. Soils are deep and excessively drained. Permeability is rapid and available water capacity is low.

b. Soil taxonomic units common to this site are:

Zeona loamy fine sand and fine sand

Refer to Section II-A for a complete list of soil taxonomic units and range sites.

3. POTENTIAL VEGETATION

a. This site has a dominance of both cool and warm season mid-grasses. Principal species are needleandthread, prairie sandreed, sand bluestem, and sand dropseed. Other species are blue grama, western wheatgrass, Canada wildrye and upland sedges. A variety of forb species make up about 10 percent of the total herbage production. A similar amount of woody plants are on this site. Common woody plants are silver sagebrush, fringed sagebrush, and woods rose.

b. Continued heavy grazing by cattle results in a decrease of needleandthread, prairie sandreed, western wheatgrass, and sand bluestem. Species that increase with overuse are blue grama, sand bluestem, Penn sedge, and other upland sedges. Further deterioration of the site is a dominance of blue grama, upland sedges, fringed sagebrush, and undesirable forbs and shrubs.

c. Approximate total annual production of this site in excellent condition is from 1000 to 1400 pounds of air-dry herbage per acre, depending on growing conditions. Percent of the ground that is covered by living or dead vegetation is about 90 percent.

d. A detailed description of the vegetation in excellent condition is as follows:

Relative Percent Composition of the Potential Vegetation

	Mean Productivity	
	lbs/acre	% composition
Grasses		
Needleandthread	360	30
Prairie sandreed	180	15
Western wheatgrass	60	5
Sand dropseed	60	5
Blue grama	60	5
Sand bluestem Canada wildrye Other grasses	60	5
Grasslikes Penn sedge Threadleaf sedge Other grasslikes	180	15
Forbs Green sagewort Silverleaf scurfpea Rush skeletonplant Prairie coneflower Dotted gayfeather Other forbs	120	10
Shrubs and half-shrubs Fringed sagebrush Silver sagebrush Pricklypear cactus Woods rose Other shrubs	120	10
Total	1200	100

4. DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK GRAZING VALUE

a. This site has a low stocking rate potential, but is suitable for both cattle and sheep grazing. The best seasons of grazing are summer and fall due to the amounts of warm-season plants produced on this site. This site is highly susceptible to wind erosion and frequently has 'blowouts' on heavily grazed areas.

3--Thin Sands Range Site

5. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE

a. This site is used for forage by big game species such as antelope, mule deer, and white-tailed deer. Small mammals commonly found are the skunk, cottontail rabbit, jackrabbit, and coyote. Upland birds that use the site are the sharp-tailed grouse and mourning dove. Songbirds that frequent this site are the lark bunting, horned lark, meadowlark, and chestnut-collared longspur.

6. ESTHETIC AND RELATED VALUES

a. This site makes up part of the rolling grassland and grows a large array of flowering forbs during spring and summer. Recreational uses are hunting, bird watching, and hiking.

7. HYDROLOGIC CHARACTERISTICS

a. Runoff from this site on good to excellent condition, properly used range is slow. Rate of water transmission of the soil is high.

8. A TYPICAL SITE LOCATION IN THIS AREA IS AS FOLLOWS